

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kudo (U.S. 6,352,442). Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kudo.

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Amendments to Specification

Applicant has amended the specification as noted above to cure obvious grammatical and idiomatic inaccuracies. It is believed that the foregoing amendments to specification overcome the outstanding objections thereto. No "new matter" has been added to the original disclosure by the foregoing amendments to the specification.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-13 and has added new claims 14-18 to this application. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, and define subject matter that is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art.

The new claims are directed toward a flat flexible circuit board connector for connecting with a flexible circuit board comprising: a) a concave body (50) having: i) a base (51) having a plurality of channels (53), each of the plurality of channels having an embedding rib having a front portion (542) and a rear portion (541); ii) two side flanges (52) located on opposing sides of the base; and iii) a receiving surface (55) extending from a rear thereof; b) a movable lid (60) pivotally connected to the first terminal and movable between open and closed positions, the movable lid having: i) a board (61) engaging the two side flanges when the lid is in the closed

position; and ii) a plurality of terminal grooves (64); each of the plurality of terminal grooves having a protruding axis (65); c) a plurality of first terminals (70), each of the plurality of first terminals having: i) an upper pin (71) having a front portion and a rear portion; ii) a lower pin (72) having a front portion and a rear portion; iii) an embedding pin (73) connected to the rear portion of the lower pin; iv) an inserting gap (75) located between the front portion of the upper pin and the front portion of the lower pin, the flexible circuit board is inserted into the inserting gap of each of the plurality of first terminals; v) a pivotal gap (76) located between the rear portion of the upper pin and the rear portion of the lower pin; the protruding axis of one of the plurality of terminal grooves is inserted into the pivotal gap of each of the plurality of first terminals, wherein, when the movable lid is in the closed position, the protruding axis pressing against the rear portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals and pressing the front portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals against the flexible circuit board, and vi) a bottom gap (77) located between the rear portion of the lower pin and the embedding pin, the rear portion of one of the plurality of channels of the concave body is inserted into the bottom gap of each of the plurality of first terminals; and d) a plurality of second terminals (80) connected to the flexible circuit board, each of the plurality of second terminals having a gap into which the front portion of one of the plurality of channels of the concave body is inserted.

Other embodiments of the present invention include: the rear portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals includes a bent portion (74); the embedding rib of each of the plurality of channels has a sunken recess (543) located between the front portion and the rear portion; the movable lid has a first blocking piece (62) extending outwardly from a front thereof and second blocking pieces (62) extending from opposing sides thereof; and the protruding axis of each of the plurality of terminal grooves has an ellipsoidal shaped cross section.

The cited reference to Kudo discloses a connector including a housing (15), and actuator (18), and a plurality of contacts (16, 17).

Kudo does not teach an upper pin having a front portion and a rear portion; a lower pin having a front portion and a rear portion; a pivotal gap located between the rear portion of the upper pin and the rear portion of the lower pin; the protruding

axis of one of the plurality of terminal grooves is inserted into the pivotal gap of each of the plurality of first terminals; when the movable lid is in the closed position, the protruding axis pressing against the rear portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals and pressing the front portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals against the flexible circuit board; the rear portion of the upper pin of each of the plurality of first terminals includes a bent portion; the embedding rib of each of the plurality of channels has a sunken recess located between the front portion and the rear portion; nor does Kudo teach the protruding axis of each of the plurality of terminal grooves has an ellipsoidal shaped cross section.

It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear, as discussed above, that Kudo does not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's new claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Absent a specific showing of these features, Kudo cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is further submitted that Kudo does not disclose, or suggest any modification of the specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Thus, it is not believed that Kudo renders obvious any of Applicant's new claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

Bruce H. Troxell
Reg. No. 26,592

TROXELL LAW OFFICE PLLC
5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1404
Falls Church, Virginia 22041
Telephone: 703 575-2711
Telefax: 703 575-2707